

Gorbachev spends 3 days in Baikonur

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has spent three days on a previously unannounced visit to the space centre from where the Soviet Union is expected to launch its first shuttle, the Soviet news agency TASS said Wednesday. Mr. Gorbachev, accompanied by senior military officials, toured the Baikonur complex in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan from Monday until Wednesday. He made a speech which, in part, underlined the significance of the scientific work carried out at the centre, TASS said. The agency gave no details of this section of his speech, but the reference was a rare official acknowledgement that the Soviet Union's space effort has military applications. Mr. Gorbachev was accompanied to Baikonur by Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov, the head of the KGB security police, Viktor Chebrikov, and the Communist Party Central Committee secretary with responsibility for military industries, Lev Zetkov. The presence of these three — and that of other officials including Gary Marchuk, head of the Academy of Sciences — and the absence of any previous mention of Mr. Gorbachev's trip in the official media pointed to the sensitivity of the visit.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation جوادن تايمز يومي اردنية نشرة اردنية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الرأي

Volume 12 Number 3474

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 14-15, 1987, RAMADAN 17-18, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

U.N. senators want to close PLO offices

WASHINGTON (R) — Legislation which labels the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a "terrorist" organisation and which would close two PLO offices in the United States was introduced in the U.S. Senate on Wednesday. "Neither one belongs in this country," said Senator Charles Grassley, one of three senators sponsoring the measure. "It's time they were closed." Mr. Grassley, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and Senator Frank Lautenberg want to shut down the PLO information centre in Washington and the PLO observer mission to the United Nations.

ADC launches moves against offending movie

WASHINGTON (AP) — An organisation of Arab Americans is launching a protest against the move "Ishtar," calling it an affront to every Muslim. The film, scheduled for release later this week, is about two American songwriters travelling through the Middle East with a blind camel. It stars Dustin Hoffman, Isabelle Adjani and Warren Beatty. "The movie contains every stereotype you have ever heard about the subject, including bumbling Arabs and camels," said Faris Bouthafa, director of public relations for the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

Reagan to name Horan as envoy to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan is to nominate career diplomat Huine Horan, a Middle East and North Africa veteran, as ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the White House said Wednesday. Mr. Horan, 52, formerly served in diplomatic posts in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He was ambassador to Cameroon and equatorial Guinea and Sudan.

Recipient of contra money faces charges

ZURICH (R) — A major Swiss bank said Wednesday it was pressing embezzlement charges against a Geneva-based businessman who accidentally received \$10 million destined for Nicaraguan rebels last August. But the Swiss justice ministry said the man was not implicated in the Iran-contra affair now under congressional investigation in Washington. Credit Suisse, the bank which received the funds, said it was lodging charges against the man, who subsequently transferred the money to another Geneva bank, where it still remains frozen by authorities. Justice sources named the bank as Banque Paribas (Suisse) SA.

Peace groups meet in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Peace groups from 40 countries met in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss ways of improving international security and preventing war. Officials from the non-governmental Soviet Peace Committee told Reuters delegates would discuss military, political, economic and humanitarian aspects of world security.

INSIDE

- Amnesty calls on Iran to end torture and executions, page 2
- Local firms launch first phase of Amman-Dead Sea highway, page 3
- Moroccan wall threatens Mauritania's austerity, page 4
- Fans pick early favourites in Miss Universe contest, page 5
- McEnroe says injury hindering efforts to regain top form, page 6
- Bahraini banks seek new ways into corporate financing, page 7
- Aquino urges opposition to 'respect voters' will, page 8

Israeli coalition stalemated over peace conference

Peres calls on Shamir to resign but Likud refuses to budge

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's inner cabinet failed to reach agreement on Wednesday over proposals for an international Middle East peace conference, leaving the coalition government in disarray.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has pressed for a peace conference as the only path to direct talks with the Arabs, postponed his planned departure for the United States Wednesday night and called for early general elections.

After a session of the 10-man inner cabinet lasting more than three hours, Mr. Peres told reporters: "The cabinet is divided

ideas meant he could no longer seek to promote a conference sponsored by the United Nations.

"The foreign minister does not have the mandate to work on an international level for the international conference," Mr. Shamir said in a statement.

"It is my opinion that the national unity government could and should continue. Let us make every effort to overcome the rifts that have widened in recent days."

But Mr. Peres vowed to continue his campaign, saying: "There was no decision to prevent me."

Mr. Peres' Labour Party, in a statement, demanded that Mr. Shamir resign.

Mr. Peres claims he has the agreement of Jordan, Egypt and the United States on an international peace conference.

(Continued on page 3)

Arab states reportedly agree to hold Riyadh summit in September

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab countries have agreed to hold the 13th Arab summit in Riyadh at the beginning of September, a senior Arab League official was quoted as saying Wednesday.

The Al Khaleej daily of Dubai quoted the official, who it said asked not to be identified, as saying that efforts to hold the summit, which has been repeatedly postponed since 1983, had achieved limited results but that these results were sufficient for a conference to be held.

The main obstacle in the face of efforts to hold the summit, the official said, remained Syrian-Palestinian differences. However, the official said he expected

joint efforts by Algeria, Libya and the Soviet Union to remove the obstacle.

Other inter-Arab differences, including disputes between Syria and Iraq and the Western Sahara conflict involving Algeria and Morocco, are beginning to be settled, according to the official.

Al Khaleej quoted the official as confirming that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held a meeting arranged by His Majesty King Hussein. The official said it was a matter of time before Libya and Iraq resumed relations.

The official said that there had not been much progress on the question of the Saharan conflict.

McFarlane: Reagan encouraged contra aid and was briefed often

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan frequently encouraged his aides to help Nicaragua's "contras" and was briefed in detail on rebel operations at a time U.S. military aid was banned, former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said Wednesday.

In his third day of testimony at congressional hearings on the Iran-contra scandal, Mr. McFarlane also said he believed that assistance to the rebels from the White House, Congress and the National Security Council (NSC) or any other U.S. intelligence agency was against the law.

Mr. McFarlane said Mr. Reagan often urged him, as head of the NSC, to provide unspecified help to the contras. He said he gave the president briefings on contra developments on dozens of occasions.

Mr. Reagan has denied know-

ing that funds from secret sales of U.S. weapons to Iran, made in hopes of freeing American hostages in Lebanon, had been diverted to help the contras and that money for the rebels was solicited by U.S. officials from foreign governments.

Mr. McFarlane, who tried to commit suicide in February in distress over his role in the Iran scandal, was replying to questions from Congressman William Boland, author of the law that sharply curbed official U.S. aid to the contras.

Mr. Boland asked Mr. McFarlane: "Based on your reading of the Boland amendment, in effect from October 1984 to December 1985, would any type of assistance to the contras by a member of the NSC or any other intelligence agency have been permitted?"

Mr. McFarlane replied: "No

(Continued on page 3)

SPLA claims downing plane

Carbomb kills Syrian soldier in W. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded near a Syrian army base in west Beirut on Wednesday causing the first Syrian troop casualties since Damascus sent soldiers into the city's mainly Muslim western sector in February.

The Syrians were asked to intervene by Prime Minister Rashid Karami and other Muslim leaders who saw action by Damascus as the only way to stop fierce street battles between leftist militias.

On May 4 Mr. Karami said he was quitting because his three-year-old "national unity" government had failed to end Lebanon's 12 years of civil war or tackle its economic crisis.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast, the second car bomb attack on the Syrians since more than 7,000 troops moved into west Beirut on Feb. 22 to curb militia violence.

King visits Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein discussed means to settle inter-Arab differences and consolidate Arab solidarity during a visit the monarch paid to Baghdad Wednesday evening.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two leaders' talks also covered the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq warfront and Jordanian-Iraqi relations. It said the King's visit to Baghdad and his talks there came within the framework of continuing consultations and coordination between Jordan and Iraq.

The Iraqi president hosted an iftar in honour of the King Wednesday. It was attended by the delegation accompanying the King and senior Iraqi officials.

The meeting between the two leaders were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker as well as the Kingdom's ambas-

sador to Iraq. On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and member of the Revolutionary Command Council Taha Yassin Ramadan, Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah, Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nseif Jassem, the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan and Ahmad Hussein, head of the presidential office.

The Iraqi president hosted an iftar in honour of the King Wednesday. It was attended by the delegation accompanying the King and senior Iraqi officials.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were met upon arrival in Baghdad and seen off upon departure by President Hussein and senior Iraqi officials.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials were at hand in Amman to see off the King and receive him upon



His Majesty King Hussein is received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein upon his arrival in Baghdad for a short visit (Petra photo)

his return home later the visit.

The King is said in the cable that his visit to Baghdad and talks there were another link in the continuing consultations and coordination between the two countries.

Iraqi planes bomb refineries deep inside Iranian territory

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked oil refineries deep inside Iran on Wednesday after weeks of short-range strikes on military and industrial targets.

A Baghdad war communiqué said the planes hit refineries at Esfahan, central Iran, and at Tabriz, in the northwest, where they also knocked out a Hawk anti-aircraft missile base.

Iraq acknowledged the raids, saying they had caused damage and injuries.

It was the first time Iraqi warplanes had attacked targets in major Iranian cities since Feb. 19, when Baghdad announced a temporary halt to devastating bombing raids as part of a peace plan to end the Gulf war.

Although Wednesday's raids were on two of Iran's biggest cities, Baghdad said they were

directed at specific oil targets. Iraq said its aircraft also hit Iranian military camps near the Iran-Iraq border and a vessel off Iran in the northern Gulf.

Shipping sources in the region were not able to confirm that any vessel had been attacked in the waterway.

Iran: 'Missiles ready'

Meanwhile, the head of Iran's navy, Commodore Mohammad Hussein Malekzadegan, said his forces had emplaced anti-ship missiles in the Gulf and in the Strait of Hormuz which separates Iran and Oman.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Commodore Malekzadegan as saying in a speech at a Tehran mosque that the Iranian navy had formed a "quarantine belt" in the Gulf and in the Gulf of Oman.

He said the navy was "decisively intercepting ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, regardless of the flag they were flying or their nationality."

The commodore said only littoral countries of the Gulf should be concerned with the waterway's security.

The United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain maintain warships in the Gulf. Kuwait plans to transfer some of its oil tankers to sail under the American flag to deter Iranian attacks.

Another six refugees in the camp were arrested earlier this month.

Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Shaine, along with the others arrested this week, are suspected of connections with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) group, an army spokesman said.

A Canadian woman tourist was slightly injured on Wednesday when Palestinian youths threw stones at a tourist bus in the West Bank town of Jericho, police said.

One Arab was arrested after the attack in the ancient town.

Earlier, an Israeli army spokesman said a Palestinian who allegedly hurled stones at Israeli troops in the West Bank overnight fell and broke his knee while fleeing from the soldiers.

Two other Palestinians were arrested after the army chase in the town of Jenin, she said.

Their detention sparked an anti-Israeli demonstration which the army dispersed by firing rubber bullets at the crowd and several live rounds in the air, the spokeswoman said.

In a separate incident, a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli vehicle Tuesday night in Beit Sahur. The bomb missed its target and no one was hurt, the army said.

Cairo closes Iranian office, says Tehran funded extremist group

Egypt urges PLO to ensure role in peace talks

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) risked "missing the train" if it did not find a way to participate in an international Middle East peace conference.

President Mubarak told reporters he was not setting conditions for PLO participation.

"The conference is our last chance to solve the Palestinian cause... I urge the PLO to find a way to participate in the conference so we can move before we miss the train," he said.

Mr. Mubarak was speaking during a tour of factories in America, near Alexandria.

In Cairo Tuesday night, Mr. Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein discussed the moves towards an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Mubarak's top political adviser, Osama Baz, told reporters the two leaders stressed the need for consensus among Arab countries bordering Israel — Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Ali Mohammad Besharati for four hours.

"I passed by Mr. Besharati. I was close to him," he said. "He was in a car leaving (UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan's) farm... at five minutes to 10 a few nights ago, moving slowly about five miles an hour. "I was moving slowly about five miles an hour in the other direction. So our conversation was limited."

The Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Ammar attributed its report to informed senior sources in Abu Dhabi, where Mr. Murphy arrived from Oman last Saturday on the second leg of his Gulf tour.

He has also visited Iraq, Qatar and Kuwait and will go on to Bahrain from Saudi Arabia. He is expected to end his tour in Jordan, which was not included in his original itinerary, Reuter said.

In a press conference in Kuwait on Tuesday, Mr. Murphy firmly ruled out a role for the PLO in Arab-Israeli peace talks unless it renounced violence and accepted Israel's "right to exist."

They said the Foreign Ministry cited "non-diplomatic activities" in its expulsion order served on Tuesday. The government would soon reveal details of the underground group, they said.

Egypt and Iran do not have diplomatic relations and a spokesman at the Iranian interests section of the Swiss embassy declined to comment.

He told Reuters earlier that resident Iranian diplomat Mahmoud Mohtadi and another Iranian employee had been given seven days to leave the country.

Iranian fundamentalism has been increasing in Egypt but is not of the brand influenced by Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Jihad was held responsible for the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and Mr. Abu Basha, interior minister from 1982 to 1984, was responsible for rounding up Muslim fundamentalists accused of the

Reagan finds support for SDI tests

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan told the U.S. Congress on Wednesday that a State Department study shows the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty does not bar testing of sophisticated components of his "star wars" programme. The study, by the State Department's legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, affirms the Reagan administration's position that the so-called broad interpretation of the treaty is correct. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, announcing the finding, told reporters that no decision had yet been made to enter into a new phase of research on the strategic defence initiative (SDI), as "Star Wars" is formally called. The broad interpretation of the U.S.-Soviet ABM treaty has been disputed by former officials who helped negotiate the pact and by the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn. The House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to cut SDI funding to \$3.1 billion for the year that starts on Oct. 1. Mr. Reagan had sought \$5.7 billion. (See page 8).

Amnesty calls on Iran to end torture, executions

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International said Wednesday it had overwhelming evidence that Iran tortured and executed religious and political dissidents.

The London-based human rights organisation appealed to Iran's Islamic authorities to end torture, half punishments designed to kill, cause intense pain or result in mutilation, and bring laws and practices into line with international standards.

Amnesty said in a report and briefing on Iran that it could not give precise number of those detained because it had not been allowed into the country since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his Islamic fundamentalist supporters seized power in 1979.

But it said a wide range of sources, including official gazettes and news reports and "hundreds of reports" of torture from former prisoners and prisoners' relatives had enabled it to document a continuing long-term pattern of abuses.

Amnesty said it had recorded 115 executions in 1986, but believed this was well below the true total, as many executions had been carried out in secret and were not officially acknowledged.

Beatings on the feet, lashings with leather whips and steel rope, and being hung by the arms or wrists were also widely used to torture detainees in Iranian jails, it said.

Those imprisoned included alleged members and supporters of opposition groups, members of ethnic minorities and members of the Baha'i faith. Amnesty said many were teenagers at school when arrested.

The organisation pointed out that it had worked on behalf of some of those now in power when they had suffered abuses under the rule of the previous regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and said it was "particularly sad they now appear insensitive to humanitarian appeals on behalf of others."

Amnesty also expressed concern about "inhuman and cruel" punishments for petty criminals, including stoning to death which can be prescribed for various sexual offences, amputation which is imposed for repeated theft, and floggings.

Kissing by an unmarried couple is punishable by up to 99 lashes, and amnesty said it had received reports of pregnant women who had miscarriages after being flogged.

An Iranian embassy spokesman in London said Amnesty's claims were not true. There was no torture in Iran, he said, and torture was in any case against Islamic Law.

He agreed that floggings, amputations and stonings did occur, but said they were carefully regulated by Islamic Law. He blamed Western misunderstanding of Islamic culture, which he said was "very difficult to explain."

Amnesty said it recognised Iran's right to base laws on its social, cultural and religious traditions, but these laws had to accord with the country's human rights obligations.

Amnesty said it had not received a response to two memoranda sent to Teheran in 1986 asking for better protection of human rights in Iran.

Amnesty said at least six men and two women were stoned to death in 1986 and the authorities were using a specially devised electric guillotine for cutting off prisoners' fingers.

More than 6,400 sentences of physical punishment were passed in Tehran alone in the 12 months up to March 1987, according to

figures released by the authorities — nearly 1,100 were floggings imposed for sexual and alcohol-related offences.

Amnesty International said it also wanted an end to arbitrary arrest and unfair trials of political prisoners which were "making a mockery of justice in Iran."

Most such trials were secret and lasted only a few minutes even though they might result in sentences of death or long terms of imprisonment. Often the accused did not know the charges against them until they appeared in court and Amnesty International knows of no political case before a revolutionary court in which the accused has been allowed to have a lawyer. In some cases the verdicts are kept secret — and there is no right of appeal.

A recurring image in the many testimonies gathered, says Amnesty International, is of rows of Evin Prison detainees sitting on the floor blindfolded, with swollen and bleeding feet.

Over 200 people have been executed because of their religion, most of them Baha'i. Youngsters under 18 have been executed in defiance of international law — Amnesty International says it received reports that children as young as 11 were executed in 1981 and 1982.

Most executions are by hanging or firing-squad. Stoning to death is prescribed for various sexual offences and is deliberately designed to cause pain to the victim before death — by law the stones used must not be "too large, in case the person dies after being hit by one or two of them."

Mujahedeen fighters report killing 200 Iranian Guards

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian opposition group said Wednesday its fighters killed more than 200 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in fighting in the west Iranian province of Sardasht on Monday.

The Baghdad-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said in a telex to Reuters that its men captured seven military bases and destroyed two others in the attack.

It said 70 enemy bunkers, a mortar position and an ammunition depot were blown up and a

large quantity of arms and ammunition, including mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, was seized.

An Iranian army force, sent to reinforce the bases Tuesday, was ambushed by the Mujahedeen who killed 20 of them, it said. Seven Mujahedeen fighters died in the fighting.

The release said the operation was the 45th by the Mujahedeen this year.

Tehran detains 2 Italians

ROME (R) — Two Italians working in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas are being held by Iranian authorities, the Italian Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The ministry said the two men, who were working at a thermoelectric power station built by the Milan firm Gruppo Industriale Eletro Mecanica (GIE) in the strategic port at the head of the Strait of Hormuz, were detained.

The ministry said in a statement the two men, who were working at a thermoelectric power station built by the Milan firm Gruppo Industriale Eletro Mecanica (GIE) in the strategic port at the head of the Strait of Hormuz, were detained.

The two employees, Bruno Bellamano and Alessandro Roversi, were in the hands of local judicial authorities but no charges had yet been brought against them, the statement said.

Italian diplomats in Rome and in Tehran were seeking clarification of the detentions.

Relations between Rome and Tehran were severely strained last autumn over a satirical sketch on Italian television about the sale of American weapons to Iran. Tehran recalled its ambassador to Rome and expelled three Italian diplomats. The ambassador has since returned to Rome.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

McFarlane defends Reagan, North, takes blame for Iran-contra scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — Former White House official Robert McFarlane has delivered an impassioned defence of President Reagan and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North over the Iran-contra affair and tried to shoulder all the blame himself.

The ministry said in a statement the two men, who were working at a thermoelectric power station built by the Milan firm Gruppo Industriale Eletro Mecanica (GIE) in the strategic port at the head of the Strait of Hormuz, were detained.

The two employees, Bruno Bellamano and Alessandro Roversi, were in the hands of local judicial authorities but no charges had yet been brought against them, the statement said.

Italian diplomats in Rome and in Tehran were seeking clarification of the detentions.

Relations between Rome and Tehran were severely strained last autumn over a satirical sketch on Italian television about the sale of American weapons to Iran. Tehran recalled its ambassador to Rome and expelled three Italian diplomats. The ambassador has since returned to Rome.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

President spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public took daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security adviser Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the

Cabinet endorses funding for joint Jordan-Egypt Co.

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Cabinet Wednesday announced its endorsement of the minutes of the sixth meeting of the Joint Jordan-Egyptian Higher Committee which convened in Amman on May 7.

A statement said that the Cabinet has issued instructions to various government departments to begin implementing the recommendations and resolutions contained in the minutes.

Among other things, the minutes said that the two countries would each pay its share of the capital for a \$50 million joint

holding company by August 1 and called for a July meeting of the company to deal with the creation of four firms for fisheries, fodder and lean meat, agricultural seeds and a tourism investment company. The holding company, to be based in Amman, is a major outcome of efforts for economic cooperation since the two countries normalised ties in 1984.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai led the Jordanian team to the meeting and Dr. Atef Sedki, prime minister of Egypt, led the Egyptian side.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi minister visits University of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdullah Abbas visited the University of Jordan Wednesday and met with its vice president, Mahmoud Al Samra. They discussed cooperation between the university and the Iraqi ministry of Awqaf in cultural affairs. Dr. Samra briefed the minister of the university's activities and programmes and accompanied him on a tour of the campus.

Jordan to attend water conservation panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will take part in the Third World conference on water conservation which will be held in Canada on May 27. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber will head Jordan's delegation to the 10-day conference.

Ministry to go to radiation seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Health will take part in the first Arab symposium on protection against radiation which will be held in Tunisia on June 15. The symposium will last for three days.

Man sentenced for drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Sa'id Subhi Ali to three-years imprisonment with hard labour for trafficking hashish. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Company studies Dead Sea's potential

AMMAN (I.T.) — A Jordanian industrial company is currently conducting a study on the establishment of a company for extracting and processing therapeutic materials from the Dead Sea with a capital of JD 250,000. Economic feasibility of the project revealed that the project should be a good investment and should be profitable. The Arab Potash Co. (APC) is considering contributing 20 per cent to the proposed company's capital.

Israeli cabinet deadlocked

(Continued from page 1)

got a clear strategy.

The handful of independent members and the religious parties who hold the balance in Israel's fragmented parliament seem to be leaning toward Likud in exchange for pledges of safe seats at the next election and concessions on key religious issues.

The nine-party government has survived dozens of crises over the last 31 months and scored notable successes, taming runaway inflation and extricating Israel from its entanglement in Lebanon.

In an apparent climbdown from earlier threats to pull his Labour Party out of the government, Mr. Peres said: "I do not think we have to present an ultimatum to the Likud and I do not think the Likud has to give us an ultimatum."

If Labour withdrew the result

would be a minority Likud government, which was not what the voters had wanted, he said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a senior Labour figure, told reporters: "If I thought that by going into opposition there was a chance of early elections, I would go for it."

Political analysts said Labour

could not at present muster the 61 votes required to dissolve the 120-member Knesset (parliament) and force early elections.

The next poll is scheduled for November 1988.

Political commentators said Mr. Shamir appeared to have called Mr. Peres' bluff over the threats to bring down the government and left him stranded with-

McFarlane: Reagan was briefed

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. McFarlane: "Frequently, yes sir."

"On how many occasions?"

Mr. McFarlane: "Dozens."

The nature of the help sought by the president was not specified.

Mr. Reagan said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd raised the question of Saudi aid to the contra rebels at a White House meeting in 1985 and told

that "I never brought it up."

"It shows that the king, before he left, told me that he was going to increase the aid," Mr. Reagan said.

Murphy had 'close' encounter

(Continued from page 1)

dealing" in the Middle East.

Pravda also accused the United States of seeking to heighten tension in the Middle East to gain the greatest possible profit from the situation.

It said Mr. Murphy's tour had failed to produce tangible results and assurances that Washington sought to play a constructive role in the region "misled nobody."

"On the one hand Washington displays a pretence of concern about greater tension and on the other it banks on a further deterioration of the situation to gain the maximum profit for itself," Pravda's Beirut correspondent Yuri Glukhov said.

"Washington's course in the Middle East and Gulf continues to be anti-Arab, adventurous and hegemonic, and no efforts by high-ranking emissaries can conceal this," Glukhov said.



CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES IRAQI MINISTER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receives at the Royal Court Wednesday the Iraqi minister of awqaf (centre), Abdullah

Fadel Abbas, who arrived in Amman on Monday. Also, in attendance was Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat (Petra photo)

Queen Alia fund plans construction of 11 community centres in south

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) has finalised plans for establishing 11 community centres in the south of the country to help raise the social and economic standard of people in that region, according to Dr. Zaki Ayyoubi, member of the QASWF's board of trustees.

He said that the centres will be set up at Sadaka, Marigha, Dabaghat, Taybeh, Jahir, Baqaa, Zubeira, Basta, Tafileh, Rweim and Basira. He said the total cost of these centres is estimated at JD 500,000 and will be built on 3,400 square metres of land.

These centres will have children nurseries, workshops for training local women in dress-making, and multi-purpose halls, Dr. Ayyoubi added.

He stated that JD 50,000 will be spent this year on building annexes to the Yarmouk Centre

for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, and JD 60,000 more will be spent in the future on other expansions in the same centre.

QASWF will carry out a project for promoting local development at Haslum district in Amman at the cost JD 1.3 million.

This project entails erecting seven buildings on 8,000 square metres of land, which will house a vocational centre for the handicapped among other services, Dr. Ayyoubi said.

He related that the land was a gift for the project provided by the Greater Amman Municipality. Work on the project is expected to start in the coming few months.

Dr. Ayyoubi also said that QASWF has recently conducted a survey in Karak region and found that there are almost 500 handicapped there. Work has

already started in Karak region for building a centre to help rehabilitate these handicapped people. The centre is expected to cost JD 520,000, Dr. Ayyoubi estimated.

He said there will also be another rehabilitation centre in Eidoun, in Irbid Governorate, also costing nearly JD 520,000, providing services to 150 handicapped. In Irbid itself, he said, a JD 250,000 project for the rehabilitation of handicapped women and the provision of children care, has been established by QASWF.

In addition to all that, Dr. Ayyoubi said, the QASWF will continue a programme of helping people in rural regions to plant trees and initiate income-generating projects. The organisation will also assist charitable societies and offer training courses to their members.

Local firms launch first phase of Amman-Dead Sea Highway

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint venture of two local companies at Jaafar Company and General Contracting Company, signed a contract with the Ministry of Public Works Wednesday for building the Naour bypass, extending for six kilometres along the Amman-Dead Sea Highway at the cost of JD 2.3 million.

The contract was signed by Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh and representatives of the two companies.

Following the signing ceremony, Mr. Hawamdeh said that the bypass was part of the 41 kilometre highway linking Amman, Naour and the Dead Sea, a main road for Jordan. He said that the new highway was deemed necessary because of

landslides on the existing road, near the village of Adasieh, and the heavy traffic along the highway, especially in the winter season.

The bypass forms part of the new highway, and will extend for six kilometres, with four lanes and will have a junction and several bridges.

The bypass is the first phase of the new highway which, he said, will cost a total of \$46 million, of which \$25 million has been sup-

plied in the form of a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the minister added.

He said that the second phase of the project, entailing construction of 10 kilometres, is now under consideration. A tender could be announced in four months when the documents and designs have been completed.

The minister said that the third part of the highway project, extending for 11.4 kilometres, will be later announced in a tender. Twenty-six kilometres of the total road will have four lanes and the rest will be two lanes, the minister added.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior ministry officials and Mr. Louis Reade, USAID director in Amman.

Turnout for voter registration rises sharply as deadline nears

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — with four more days to go before voter registration centres close, reports gathered by the Jordan Times on Wednesday indicated yet another sharp rise in turnout all over the Kingdom.

The number of citizens turning up to register their names and exercise their franchise for the impending parliamentary elections is expected to maintain the present pace, if not increase, before the registration period draws to an end this Sunday.

Amman and its suburbs, where over one third of the Kingdom's population resides, ranked first in terms of voter registration with 66,000 registered by closing time on Wednesday, followed by Zarqa with almost 62,000, and the Balqa region with nearly 59,167.

Although a total number on voter registration throughout the Amman Governorate — which includes Amman and its suburbs, Madaba district, Thibian, Sahab, and Tuesday.

Several elements have contributed to the increase in people registering: the extension of registration time by two hours a day, full-fledged electioneering and lobbying by candidates and their supporters, and a higher public awareness level and a growing media campaign all over the Kingdom.

CRD estimates of voter registration

In another related development, the Civil Registration Department (CRD) whose "family books" (daftar al 'aileh) have been exclusively named by the government as the document for voter registration said Wednesday it has to date registered 556,228 Jordanian families and issued them family books.

CRD Director General Adnan Mirza was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying these registered families comprise nearly 3,671,053 people, of whom 1,894,147 are male.

Road to independence: A parliamentary history of Jordan

Distinguished members of Jordan's Parliaments: 1928-present



Ahmad Al Lawzi



Mustafa Khalifa



Salah Touqan



Hikmat Al Masri



Ahmad Al Tarawneh



National Charter laid down



Akef Al Fayed



Said Al Mufti



Kamel Oraikat



Hashem Kheir

legislative council that also proclaimed a new constitution for the Kingdom.

The second legislative council was formed in 1931 and included 15 members, while the third council was formed in 1934, when the late Ibrahim Hashem was prime minister of Jordan. This third council grouped 30 members.

Emir Abdullah joined the Allies in the Second World War. This enabled him to provide the armed forces with new weapons and to increase and enlarge the Jordanian army.

Jordan gains independence from Britain

Soon after the war Britain honoured its promise and granted Jordan its independence in 1946. The two countries signed a new friendship and alliance treaty, which was approved by Jordan's

East and West Bank joined

During this period, the Jordanian Armed Forces had been involved in the war against Israel in 1948 in response to a call by the Arab League. After the war, representatives of the West Bank of Jordan approached Emir Abdullah for unity of the two banks and several meetings were held afterwards endorsing the idea which was subsequently approved by the government in Amman and both houses of Parliament.

This unified country adopted the Jordanian constitution and regarded Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein as king of the two banks. Later, a new Parliament was elected representing representatives of the East and West Banks of Jordan.

Several amendments were later introduced to the constitution to adapt it to the new arrangement by which the members of the

Upper House of Parliament became 25 while the Lower House members became 30. The country witnessed another parliamentary election in 1966.

Following the 1967 occupation of the West Bank, new elections were held in the country. In 1974 Parliament held a session which authorised the King to postpone elections in view of the occupation of West Bank.

In 1978 King Hussein called for the formation of the National Consultative Council to temporarily take the place of the Parliament which was dissolved. But this council was dissolved in 1978 by a Royal Decree which also called the old Parliament into extraordinary session and introduced amendments to the constitution to fill the vacant seats in the House.

New election law

The new election law proc-

From athletes to accountants, everyone has a hall of fame in U.S.

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

CHICAGO — Most Americans are familiar with the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., or the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, or the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

But did you know there is a Candy Makers Hall of Fame in Hershey, Pa.; an Alabama Turkey Hunters Hall of Fame in Linden, Ala.; the National Humour Hall of Fame, address Box HoHo, in Le Claire, Iowa; a Christian Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio; a Big Band Hall of Fame in Wilmington, Del.; or a Dog Mushers Hall of Fame in Kuk, Alaska?

Did they say 'drainage'?

There are Accountants, Insurance, and Drainage halls of fame in Columbus, Ohio. There is an Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio; but also a National Aviation Hall of Fame in Hammond sport, N.Y. The National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame near Hayward, Wis., is distinguished by a 140-foot sculpture of a muskellunge, something that is absent from the Texas Salt Water Fishing Hall of Fame on Galveston Island.

The Racing Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., has no connection with the Hall of Fame of the Trotter in Goshen, N.Y. Here in Chicago, the new Junior Achievement National

Business Hall of Fame is going great guns at the Museum of Science and Industry, just a floor away from the Nobel Hall of Immortals. The National Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame has been so successful that it is moving to a larger building in the suburbs. But the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame consists only of photographs hanging in a Soldier Field concourse.

The 13 members of the Hall of Fame of the International College of Surgeons, from Imhotep to Meine, Curie, are immortalized in larger-than-life statues. But the Pickle Packers Hall of Fame exists only in a series of photographs and citations in the Pickle Makers Guild's annual directory, and the Chicago Black Athletes Hall of Fame has not yet chosen any inductees, though it hopes to do so by next fall.

If, as Emily Dickinson wrote, "fame is a fickle food, upon a shifting plate," Americans seem intent upon freeze-drying it in a bewildering array of halls of fame. Name a sport, an activity, a location, an ethnic group, and chances are there is a hall of fame somewhere attempting to convey immortality.

Reflection of hero worship

Victor Danilov, who recently retired as director of the Museum of Science and Industry and was instrumental in bringing the Nobel and business halls of fame to the museum, has concluded that halls of fame are "an Amer-

ican phenomenon that apparently reflects the national desire for hero worship."

There are an estimated 600 or so of them in this country, as opposed to only a handful in other countries.

"In many cases, it's not just an honour, but a cause that's being promoted," says Danilov. "For example, ethnic halls of fame honour someone from that heritage, but they also cause people to pay attention to Italians, or blacks, or whatever."

The pioneer was the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, begun in 1900 on what was then the Bronx campus of New York University. The Baseball Hall of Fame came next, in 1939. But the big boom began in the 1950s, as Americans began to lavish attention, zeal, and money on things that were important to them. By the late 1970s, a new hall of fame was being created every month.

A lot of attention in the last few years has gone to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which will be built in Cleveland. The group behind it has been negotiating with architect I.M. Pei to design the \$25 million building.

But the less-expensive halls of fame in the Chicago area are a group, more typical of halls throughout the country.

The Nobel Hall of Immortals honours American winners of Nobel Prizes in physics, chemistry, and physiology or medicine. A slide show tells the history of the prizes; a film includes such exotica as George Bernard

Shaw's speech at the 1921 Nobel Prize dinner for Albert Einstein. Artifacts include a doodle pad used by physicist Tsung-dao Lee, who won the 1957 award.

The Chicago Sports Hall of Fame was created in 1979 as a promotional enterprise by a brewery, and turned over to the Chicago Park District in 1982. The inductees range from well-known figures to some virtually unknown even in Chicago.

Fame Italian style

George Randazzo founded the National Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 to support youth programmes. Joe DiMaggio and Eddie Arcaro attended their induction dinner. "That gave the organisation credibility," says Randazzo. Soon he was collecting memorabilia for display: Rocky Marciano's championship belt, Mario Andretti's racing car, Primo Carnera's size-16 boxing shoes. Randazzo stresses that the hall aims "to promote Italian-Americans in a positive way."

A similar notion guides Carol Thomas and her associates as they plan the Chicago black Athletes Hall of Fame, to be housed in the DuSable Museum of African-American History. "We want to honour those athletes who have given something back to the community, people who were role models," she says. Five will be chosen each year.

And then there are those halls of which Danilov comments, "They



Hardly shy about his new bronze star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, comedian Dom De Luise leads friends in cheering and applause. The walk exemplifies the spirit that has led Americans to establish about 600 halls of fame honouring dog mushers, pickle packers, and others who excel in their craft.

sound better than they are. A lot of them are collections of clothing, photos, diaries, and letters just stacked in the corner."

Perhaps the most noteworthy of these is the collection of one

Jennie Lee in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Known professionally as "The Bazoom Girl," Ms. Lee hopes to develop her collection into a proper home for the Exotic Dancers Hall of Fame.

Mauritania disappears into the desert

By Tom Holmes
Reuters

NOUAKCHOTT — "It looked as if we were landing in a snowstorm except that it was like stepping into a furnace," said an amazed traveller.

Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott, was again shrouded by one of the Sahara's stifling sandstorms, with the midday sun reduced to a pale twilight glow.

Although close to the Atlantic Ocean, Nouakchott has been engulfed by the spreading desert. The monoscape scenery is covered with shale and snow-white sand. There are no trees and only a few sparse shrubs.

Some 85 per cent of Mauritania's one million square kilometres is now covered by desert, which continues to advance at the rate of six kilometres a year, according to a United Nations report.

Livestock farming, one of the country's main sources of wealth, has been compressed into a narrow band of pastureland above the Senegal River in the south of the country.

The population has migrated southwards, and nomad berbers have been forced to settle in shantytowns where they can survive on handouts of food aid.

An estimated 85 percent of the 1.8 million inhabitants now live in a strip between Nouakchott and the Senegalese border to the south.

Overgrazing and the concentration of population has accelerated the degradation of the fragile environment.

Firewood is the domestic fuel of virtually all Mauritanians who are cutting down trees eight times as fast as they grow. About one-third of the country's tree cover, located mainly in the Senegal River basin, has disappeared over the past 10 years.

The country has been affected by drought since 1968, with only short periods of relief, and underground water tables have been receding at over five metres a year.

Although better rains and harvests have been recorded in the past two years, Mauritania still grows only one-third of the food its people need.

Last year's grain crop totalled 95,000 tonnes, a sharp increase on the 20,000 tonnes in 1984. But with annual consumption of some 27,000 tonnes the country is likely to remain the most dependent on food aid in West Africa, according to aid donors.

However the amount of free aid is gradually being reduced while the funds raised from food

sales are being reinvested in agricultural projects.

The government has been making efforts to develop irrigated farming in the Senegal River and Gorgol Noir River valleys. Some 10,000 hectares should be developed by 1990 but this will meet only a fraction of national demand.

"Irrigated farming is capital intensive and expensive. It is difficult to operate and maintain in a largely illiterate society," an aid donor commented.

Flood recession farming in the river valleys is seen as simpler and less ecologically damaging and is likely to remain more important for several years at least.

President Maouya Sid'ahmed Ould Taya, who took over two years ago, has been expanding "food-for-work" programmes, which are encouraged by donors in the hope that they will check the growth of a "soup kitchen mentality" among refugees.

Nouakchott has undergone a major clean-up in the past six months through the food-for-work programme, residents report.

One of the social effects of drought has been to force Berber nomads to sell their herds and settle around the towns.

The country's estimated one million head of cattle has been reduced by more than one third and the 6.5 million sheep and goats by 20 per cent since 1980.

Between 1970-80, it is estimated, two out of every three nomads have settled in the towns. "We have seen the death of a culture. The lords of the desert have been reduced to the beggars of the towns," one observer commented.

The problem is greatest in the capital, which was built at independence from France in 1960 as a city for 30,000 people but now shelters nearly 500,000.

The modern city centre is in danger of being overwhelmed by a vast shantytown of makeshift wooden shacks. Most of the city's inhabitants lack running water, electricity or basic health care and education and live a zombie-like existence without work, waiting for the next handout.

A BETTER CAREER STARTS HERE...

THE CITY COLLEGE
OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES (LONDON)
preparing students for a successful business career

We offer a wide range of internationally recognised courses

Top level tuition by leading professionals, in the very centre of London
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
HOTEL MANAGEMENT
COMMERCE

LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES. SO APPLY SOON.

For a detailed prospectus please complete and return the coupon

BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

COUNTRY _____

COURSE _____

TO: Office of Admissions, The City College,
PO Box 1DQ, 6-8 James Street, London W1A 1DQ, England.

Under the patronage of
H. H. Sharif Zain Nasser
The Amman Players
present

The importance of
Being Earnest

May 13, 14, 16, 17 at 9:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural
Centre
Tickets JD 3

SINGAPORE — While the rest of Asia appears preoccupied with war, politics and trade, Singapore's attention is firmly fixed on some of the most beautiful young women in the world.

The island republic with a reputation for puritanical government is playing host to this year's Miss Universe pageant on May 27.

With the contestants already assembled, fans, photographers and even some of the competitors are pinning hopes for an Asian victory on Miss Philippines, 23-year Geraldine Villaruz Asis.

It has been 13 years since an Asian competitor has won the title and some contestants believe both the time and venue are right for an oriental winner.

"Miss Philippines is the tallest of the Asian contestants and because of that and her Asian-European features, I think her chances of winning are good," Miss Thailand, Chutima Naranya, told Reuters.

Victoria Kwong, chaperon of the five-foot eight-inch (1.73m) Asis, added: "Everyone's been admiring her height and mestiza (Eurasian) features. Provided she doesn't stumble on the catwalk, I think she has an excellent chance of winning."

Asis herself was coy when asked to rate her chances, but said: "If by chance I win, I'll donate some of the prize money to the church and the poor."

Other early favourites are Miss U.S.A., Miss New Zealand and Miss Venezuela.

Ines Maria Calero, 18, of Venezuela, hoping to follow in the footsteps of compatriot Barbara Palacios Teyde, the current titleholder, has history against her. Competitors from the same country have never won in successive years since the pageant began in 1952.

The record books do not worry Calero. "I think I have the same chance as anyone," she told Reuters.

"There's always a first time for everything, and I'm sure she'll win," interjected Miss Honduras, Francisca Tatiana Reyes.

Miss Hong Kong, Soi Fui



Beauties of the Miss Universe contest in Singapore pose around the Merlion monument, symbol of the city. The merlion has a lion's head and a mermaid's body.

Chung, said if she were a punter she would bet on Miss U.S.A., Michelle Royer, or Miss New Zealand, Ursula Kim Ryan.

Miss England, Yvette Livesey, said everyone had a chance to win but she reckoned: "It's Europe's turn."

Only four Asian beauties have become Miss Universe: Akiko Kojima from Japan (1959) Apasra Hongskul from Thailand (1965) and Gloria Diaz (1969) and Margarita Moran (1973), both from the Philippines.

Women from the United States have won the title five times followed by Sweden and Venezuela with three winners each.

In addition to the Philippines other two-time winners are Brazil, Finland and Puerto Rico.

Organisers said this year's winner would receive a record \$225,000 in prizes including a new sports car, furs and diamond jewellery, and \$81,000 in cash.

The pageant is costing Singapore about \$3.5 million but the Singapore tourist promotion board sees it as a long-term investment.

Board director Joseph Chew said the beauty contest was the "most important single event ever to be staged in Singapore in terms of the amount of international publicity."

He estimated 600 million viewers in about 50 countries would watch the two-hour show, which will be broadcast live.

The tourist board estimates the prime time exposure Singapore would get as a result would normally cost \$10 million.

Singapore is suffering from a surfeit of hotel rooms, with occupancy rates slumped to 60 per cent.

The tourist board estimates the number of visitors this year will grow by at least three per cent over last year's total of 3.2 million.

Plans for the pageant have not been without their hitches, with one competitor already disqualified.

Miss Scotland, Eileen Ann Carteron, was excluded from the competition when it was discovered she was five weeks short of her 17th birthday by the February 1 deadline set down in the rules.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

CORFU GREEK TAVERNA

The First and Only Greek Restaurant in Jordan
TONIGHT
AND EVERY NIGHT

Live Music

ZORBA THE GREEK

LOCATED
JABAL AMMAN 2ND CIRCLE
OPP FRENCH LOAF
TEL 641585 NO COVER CHARGE

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
Ahliyyah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30

p.m.

6:30-Midnight

Tel. 638968

Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic

Bridge
Amman, Jordan

Tel: 661922

Restaurant remains open during

the day for take home orders

and welcomes clients from six

p.m. until one a.m.

Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic

Bridge
Amman, Jordan

Tel: 661922

Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic

McEnroe says injury hampering his return

The once No 1 edges Argentine Davin in Italian Open

ROME (R) — John McEnroe said Wednesday a back complaint that has been troubling him for two years could keep him from regaining his world number one form.

McEnroe, who ruled as the game's top men's player from 1981 through 1984, said he had suffered occasional twinges during matches since 1985. "It has got to the point where when it hurts to play I don't give more than 75 per cent," he said.

But the 28-year-old American said he had felt no discomfort during his three-set victory at the Italian Open here over Argentine teenager Franco Davin, which ended early Wednesday morning after two power cuts blacked out the centre court.

McEnroe said the injury had been the main reason why he had not played in this year's Japan Open and lay behind his decision last year to take a six and a half month break from the game.

He said he had tried everything to solve the problem but without

success. "I didn't want to come back until I was 100 per cent fit," he said. "Unfortunately I couldn't do that. I have put myself under quite a lot of stress in the last eight months... it just didn't turn out as planned but that's all past history now."

"It could be just an injury or it could be all the years I have been playing," he said. "But I still feel there's hope... I would like to go back to how I was in 1984 — that's my goal."

"It seemed something like that was bound to happen here," McEnroe said later. "I am glad they went out when they did. I guess the chance to sit down and really think helped a bit."

McEnroe, who has set his heart on becoming the first American to win the French Open since Tony Trabert in 1955, said: "If I could win only one of the big four this year then the French has to be the title I would like most."

Piquet fit for Belgian Grand Prix after crash

Champions France get tough draw for World Team Cup

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Titleholders France were grouped with three other past champions in Wednesday's draw for next week's \$750,000 eight-nation world team cup, the most important men's team tennis event after the Davis Cup.

The French were drawn in the "Blue" Group with the United States, Spain and Argentina.

The United States, with John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors

teaming up for the first time since

winning the tournament in 1985,

look the most serious threat to

the chances of Henri Leconte,

Thierry Tulasne and Guy Forget

reaching the final again.

Sweden, last year's losing finalists, will be favourites in the

"Red" Group even though Mats Wilander decided to withdraw on Tuesday. They meet Czechoslovakia, Davis Cup champions Australia and West Germany.

Stefan Edberg, Anders Jarryd and Joakim Nyström form a strong squad who hope to end Sweden's surprising failure to win the tournament even though it is played on their favourite clay surface.

The Swedes meet hosts West Germany, who are without Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, in the opening match on Monday with Czechoslovakia facing Australia the same day.

The group winners after a round-robin meet in the final on May 24.

Tennis star condemns pros admission to Olympics

to take part in them makes a mockery of those ideals," said Rosewall, a former U.S. Open champion.

"Apart from the hypocrisy, the addition of yet another big sport to the games will make the problem of controlling them more and more horrendous," he said.

Court

disagreed with Rosewall,

saying she believed the inclusion of professional tennis would enhance the reputation of the Olympics.

"The Olympics should feature the best in the world, they should be open to all," Court told Reuters.

"If all the top players turn up,

they will be given to players from the strongest tennis countries.

Australia, the Davis Cup holders, are in this year's quarter-finals while their women's team reached the quarter-finals of last year's Federation Cup.

an Olympic gold medal will rank alongside winning one of the big four tennis titles," said Court, who won a clutch of Wimbledon, French, Australian and U.S. titles.

Countries that reach the quarter-finals of both the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup will qualify for two players in each draw. A number of spots will be saved for wildcards, which will probably be given to players from the strongest tennis countries.

Australia, the Davis Cup holders, are in this year's quarter-finals while their women's team reached the quarter-finals of last year's Federation Cup.

LACOSTE
LOW PRICES FOR ALL
LACOSTE CLOTHES
Open From 9:30 AM- 7:00 PM AND From 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM also Friday

SUBAII FOR GARMENTS
AMMAN — Bayader Wadi El Seer - 8th Circle - Near Abu Shakra

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the post of English teacher in Junior School (Grades 3 and 4). Candidates must be native English speakers with a recognised and relevant teaching certificate; ESL experience an advantage.

Application forms are available from the school (tel: 845572) and should be returned by Monday 18 May.

**FURNISHED FLATS
FOR RENT**
Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour T.V., central heating, telephone. Two locations, Jabal Amman, near Fifth Circle and Abdali area.

Phone: 673768, 672842 after 2 p.m.

FOR AMMAN RESIDENTS

Read the **JORDAN TIMES** with your morning coffee... daily... at home... (Starting 1/6/1987)

Contact: Jordan Distribution Agency
Telephone: 627644 -
Yearly subscription: JD 30.-

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

IS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1987
AGE RANGE: Boys and Girls aged 3 years 9 months to 13 years
LANGUAGE ON INSTRUCTION: English
PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED: None
OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED: French and Arabic
NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED: All
TEACHING STAFF: 90% British and all qualified and experienced within their speciality

ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Two Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress

OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS: Physical Education, Music, Drama, Science, Maths, English etc.

CURRICULUM: The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community

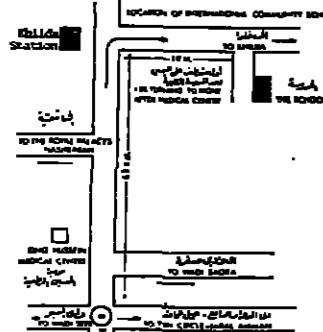
SPORTS: Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Athletics, Gymnastics etc.

ENQUIRIES: The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term

P.O. Box 2002
Tel: 841070

During the months of July and August the School will be open every Monday morning from 8-12 noon for Enquiries and Registrations.

Transport is provided to cover principal residential areas.



TO LET

Deluxe furnished semi villa and/or separate adjacent furnished office with telex. 2 bedrooms, dining and sitting room, kitchen and separate garden around.

Location: opposite to and overlooking Holiday Inn.

Interested, please call tel: 821470

MODERN FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

A modern furnished apartment consisting of three bedrooms, salon, dining room, with independent central heating and telephone.

Location: Um Al-Summaq, next to Engineers' Housing Estate

Please call 678617

FOR SALE

Toyota Cressida XL 1986 model, only 30,000 kilometres. A/C and power steering. Duty unpaid.

Call tel: 601796 after 6:00 p.m.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Two and three bedrooms, individually controlled hot water and central heating systems, telephone, lift, car park. Very convenient location, near 7th Circle, opposite Um Uthaina Hotel.

For further information contact Tel: 811851

WANTED FOR RENT

House with 2-3 bedrooms, living and dining rooms, kitchen, with luxury furniture and garden or balcony. In Shmeisani or Jabal Amman.

For German couple without children.

Please call Tel. 668193 EXT. 306.

WANTED FOR RENT

Unfurnished villa, 3 bedrooms. Preferable located in Shmeisani - Um Utheina or between 5th and 8th Circles. Telephone line is a must.

Please call Dar-Hotel tel. No. 668193 - room No. 104 between 3 p.m. and 10 p.m.

TO LET

Deluxe furnished apartments, each consisting of two bedrooms, bath room, salon, dining room, living room, kitchen with colour T.V., telephone, separate central heating and solar heating system.

Located in Jabal Amman at the 4th Circle.
Please contact telephone 642786, after 2 p.m.

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Foreign family in Jordan is willing to sell furniture and home utensils, in excellent condition, because the family is leaving the country.

Call: 678422 between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 3:00-7:00 p.m.

CONCORD
Cinema Tel: 677420
**TO LIVE
AND DIE IN
L.A.**
Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

RAINBOW
Cinema Tel: 625155
MADLY IN LOVE
Performances 3:15, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30

OPERA
Cinema Tel: 675573
**SHANGAI
SURPRISE**
Performances 3:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

PLAZA
Cinema Tel: 677420
DOG DAY
Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

RAGHADAN
Cinema Tel: 622198
3:15
Performances 12:15, 3:30, 5:30, 8:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6665/75	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3577/77	Canadian dollar
	1.7953/63	West German marks
	2.0230/40	Dutch guilders
	1.4765/75	Swiss francs
	37.23/26	Belgian francs
	5.9925/75	French francs
	1296/1297	Italian lira
	140.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.6275/6725	Swedish crown
	6.6675/6725	Norwegian crowns
	6.7525/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	459.70/460.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices continued steady during a moderate afternoon's trading, moving higher throughout the session as buyers moved back into the market to pick up cheap stock after Tuesday's brisk retreat, dealers said.

By 1400 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 24.8 points to 2,168.1, just below the day's high and looking set to break the closing high record of 2,163.3 set on May 11.

Dealers said the market appears to be settling down after the recent intense speculation over the election call date and is preparing to respond to the anticipated stream of opinion polls during the general election campaign.

Tuesday's gain on Wall Street helped some of the large international companies as did the slightly firmer dollar, but dealers said they saw future price fluctuations being determined by domestic factors during the election run up.

Opinion polls are forecast to hold the key to the market's tone over the coming weeks. Analysts are starting from the basis provided by recent polls that the Conservatives will be returned to power with a comfortable majority. A state of affairs which could take the FTSE 100 well above the 2,200 level.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All sorts of changes and new arrangements are starting to take shape and are apt to be quite dramatic. Look quietly for the opportunities you need.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have good judgment now and can also benefit from a missive from one who is far away.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Observe the monetary problems others are having and learn from them. See the friends you like today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may be annoyed with a partner. Listen to the advice of one who thinks logically.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try to keep calm if something comes up that seems to get in the way of your steady progress.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Arguments between the one you love and others could make for tension, but be loyal to your mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Today you have to handle a perplexing situation, but don't come to any definite decision as yet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are anxious to have a good time, but your friends have other plans. Invite a partner along with you instead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Although a change may occur in financial affairs, don't get excited or you could take quite a loss.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't light into an associate who is flighty today. Enjoy inexpensive recreations tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't permit a private anxiety to spoil the activities you have planned for the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may not agree with what your mate desires of you, but don't argue. Get busy at your regular routine.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try not to argue at home. Get busy with your personal monetary affairs and improve them.

If YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, is apt to make sudden and unexpected moves, so be sure to teach the importance of being steadfast to this child. Don't stifle the imagination of this one, but do teach him, or her, to handle original ideas in a most practical fashion. One who will love sports.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Watch for unusual occurrences that can be turned to your advantage. There can be much happiness of a social, romantic or artistic expression now.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Something new enters your life and can bring you happiness. New contacts can bring you data and backing.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An unexpected situation with your mate can now bring you greater happiness and gain you a coveted wish.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contact that clever individual who can show you how to gain the wishes you have long been striving for.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are inspired now, so handle your activities with more enthusiasm. You will feel satisfied.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may get an unexpected invitation for a delightful time, so take it. This may lead to follow-up amusements.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Home affairs may come up that require tactful handling if you are to steer clear of ensuing problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A new contract may require the assistance of a clever partner. Don't let your emotions get the better of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't get into arguments over finances. Co-workers with good judgment can relieve some confusion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Avoid one with whom you are bound to quarrel. Be kind and courteous with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Place your attention on a new course of action and don't let the old one hold you back.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An old friend and a new acquaintance could disagree on some matter, so keep them apart.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Disturbing situations arise concerning someone you know, but don't get involved. A new attitude is called for.

If YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will never be content at one job or be with one person for long, so let your progeny choose a profession in life that will require much travel, change and excitement. A certain amount of discipline will be necessary so that your progeny can avoid trouble.

Baker plays down prospects of major economic agreements

PARIS (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, under fire as the global economy worsens, Wednesday played down expectations of new international economic accords at next month's summit of seven leading industrial nations in Venice.

Mr. Baker, at a breakfast hosted by the Anglo-American Press Association here, called on Japan and West Germany to live up to commitments to stimulate their economies that they made in the last such pact — February's Louvre accord.

But he brushed aside suggestions that, without early implementation of the Louvre accord, named after the palatial French art museum which also houses the finance ministry, the global economy could be heading for its biggest slump since the harsh recession of 1981.

OECD countries' economic growth should average 2.5 to three per cent if the Louvre accord is implemented, and Mr. Baker, who is here for the annual OECD ministerial meeting this week, said: "I don't think we should be down in the mouth about that."

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a 24-nation forum for coordinating economic policies of Western industrial nations, forecasts growth at the low end of that prediction in the year ahead.

He said that predictions of recession have been made since 1983 but that "we haven't seen it and I don't think we ought to

think we are going to see it now."

Looking ahead to next month's Venice summit, he said: "I don't think we should get expectations up," adding that "we shouldn't look for a great big new agreement every time we get together."

Japan, he said, has made encouraging commitments to pass a roughly \$35 billion package to boost its economy and this week outlined the timing and scope of its package in private meetings with U.S. officials.

Mr. Baker said Japan's commitments were "credible promises" and praised recent interest rate cuts in Japan and West Germany as showing both countries were "well aware of the obligation that they have too in reducing external imbalances."

But Mr. Baker urged West Germany to stimulate its economy "as much as it can as soon as it can." He declined to say whether Washington wanted action before January 1988, as the Louvre accord specifies.

The Feb. 22 accord calls on Japan and West Germany to speed up their economic growth to help cut massive gaps between their own trade surpluses and the U.S. trade deficit.

The accord also calls on the United States to cut its budget deficit and fight protectionist sentiment on Capitol Hill.

If implemented, the accord said currencies should stabilise around current levels.

Mr. Baker repeated that the seven nations believed a further decline of the dollar could be counter-productive, hurting their

attempt to shore up the global economy.

He said the Louvre accord would help to achieve a further reduction in the U.S. trade deficit.

Japan, he said, has made encouraging commitments to pass a roughly \$35 billion package to boost its economy and this week outlined the timing and scope of its package in private meetings with U.S. officials.

Mr. Baker said Japan's commitments were "credible promises" and praised recent interest rate cuts in Japan and West Germany as showing both countries were "well aware of the obligation that they have too in reducing external imbalances."

But Mr. Baker urged West Germany to stimulate its economy "as much as it can as soon as it can." He declined to say whether Washington wanted action before January 1988, as the Louvre accord specifies.

In West Germany, Economics Minister Martin Bangemann said his country has not changed economic policies at all.

Other U.S. officials say that the United States has changed its position and is urging West Germany to cut taxes before the date set in the Louvre accord.

Washington, Mr. Baker said, was living up to its commitments made in February in Paris. He repeated statements that the budget deficit would come down \$40 billion this fiscal year, ending in October, from about \$230 billion the previous year.

Bahrain banks seek new ways into corporate finance

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's banks are trying to establish a foothold in lucrative corporate restructuring in the United States and West Germany in a bid to offer a new type of investment for their wealthy Middle East customers.

At a time when traditional bank lending in the Middle East has all but dried up, two of Bahrain's offshore banks have set up joint-venture operations to give Arab investors a way into small and medium-sized companies abroad to go public.

It is a market niche in Bahrain which had previously been the preserve of Arabian Investment Banking Corp., known as Investcorp.

Bahrain-based Investcorp, set up in 1982, made the running by buying companies and property in industrialised countries, mainly the United States, and selling debt or equity stakes to Arab investors.

This year has been two other Bahrain-based offshore banks launch similar schemes with foreign partners to complement their normal business and, in

man of Moseley Capital Markets Ltd. in London, said the venture with ABC — American Bridge Finance Limited Partnership — "aims at lending money to medium-sized companies which are still privately owned and need finance before they can become public companies."

Arab investors putting up funds earn from profits of loans and from capital appreciation of stock warrants when a company goes public.

Arab investment of \$40 million is being sought and a portfolio of 20 to 30 companies could be built up.

The BIB/Matuschka operation is set up as a fund, the Gulf Matuschka German Private Companies Fund Ltd., to invest in family-owned German companies about to go public.

In addition, Bahrain International Bank (BIB) launched a fund aimed at Arab investors with West German Matuschka group which will invest in small to medium-size German companies before they are brought to the stock exchange to realise profits.

Mr. Hikmat Nashashibi, chair-

Australia unveils tough mini-budget

CANBERRA (R) — The Australian government Wednesday unveiled a package of tough measures in a mini-budget aimed at saving four billion dollars (\$2.8 billion) in the next fiscal year's budget and putting the economy on an even keel.

The measures, including heavy cuts in politically sensitive areas of welfare, health and education, would cut the expected budget deficit to 2.8 billion dollars (\$1.98 billion) or one per cent of gross domestic product in 1987/88.

"They (the cuts) reduce the growth rate in government spending to its lowest level in 30 years," Treasurer Paul Keating said in presenting the economic statement to parliament.

Mr. Keating's package also en-

vises the sale of government assets, including leasing international airport terminals, the sale of defence factories and dock-yards, and of parts of Australian

embassy sites in Tokyo and Paris.

These were expected to raise one billion dollars (\$781 million).

Business and financial analysts welcomed Mr. Keating's statement and said Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Labour Party government had lived up to market expectations.

Political analysts said Mr. Keating had taken a gamble in asking Australians to further tighten their belts with elections less than a year away.

But any political backlash was

expected to be short-lived and

not affect the government's prospects in the elections due before April next year, they said.

Mr. Keating said the measures

were "the only way to secure Australia's future." Businessmen and industrialists also agreed with him.

The budget savings were vital,

he said, because falling prices for exports, such as wheat, coal, sugar

and metals, had slashed export earnings.

Market analysts said the new measures would set the course for a recovery of the Australian economy, now burdened by heavy balance of payments and foreign debt problems.

Lloyds Bank economist Warren Bird told Reuters the immediate impact would be a lowering of interest rates, which had climbed to 18.5 per cent this year.

The chief economist of Midland International Australia, Mr. Helen Camp, said: "He (Keating) has pretty well outlined fiscal policy for the rest of the year which has the potential to stabilise the market."

Mr. Keating's economic package would cut public spending in the 1987/88 fiscal year, starting on July 1, by 2.6 billion dollars (\$1.8 billion), and bring in 400 million dollars (\$234 million) from new government charges.

More strikes break out in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (R) — More strikes have broken out in Yugoslavia, shattering hopes that a settlement to a protracted miners' strike could signal an upturn in Yugoslavia's dismal economic outlook.

About 1,200 meat packers in the city of Zagreb Tuesday night announced an all-out strike, saying their managers had ruined the firm's finances and failed to pay staff for more than 10 weeks. A spokesman said they would stay on strike until their demands were met.

In Senj, on the Adriatic coast, 140 workers at a furniture factory walked out over a promised pay rise that did not materialise, local authorities said.

Volkswagen said it was not aware of any accidents or injuries resulting from failure of the fuel pump or of any recall on the vehicles outside the United States. The spokesman noted that fuel systems on Volkswagen cars sold overseas are considerably different.

Last January, the company recalled 250,000 of its prestigious Audi 5000 cars, which have been plagued with unexpected acceleration.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Here! Take skunk — it's just as good

House votes to restrict foreign access to 'Star Wars' funds

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a measure that could severely restrict the ability of foreign governments and firms to receive "Star Wars" research and development funds.

The vote came during House consideration of its \$289 billion version of the 1988 defence bill, which is \$23 billion less than Mr. Reagan's \$312 billion budget proposal.

On a 229-187 vote, the House approved an amendment that prohibits foreign firms or governments from receiving "Star Wars" research and development funds unless the Defense Department certifies that the work cannot be done in the United States at an equivalent cost.

The move could severely affect numerous firms around the world who had hoped to win some of the billions of dollars being offered for research in "Star Wars," the land- and space-based

anti-missile programme formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The Reagan administration has sought the support of U.S. allies around the world in the SDI project and a number of foreign firms and countries were planning to compete for programme contracts.

The Senate and Mr. Reagan must agree on the measure before it becomes law, and unanimous approval is far from certain. But the vote highlighted the strong protectionist sentiment brewing in Congress.

Monday's other votes reflected the Democrat-led House's ambivalence about the controversial

"Star Wars" programme, with members refusing to push ahead for early deployment while at the same time refusing to kill it outright.

The House voted 122 to 301 to reject an amendment that would have required the Defense Department to begin full-scale development and testing of "Star Wars" components to achieve deployment capability by 1993.

The House earlier voted 105 to 307 to defeat an amendment that would have cut all current funds for SDI and instead provide \$1.2 billion to the Defense Department for basic research on missile defence technology.

Mr. Reagan had requested \$5.7 billion in 1988 funding for "Star Wars."

The House Monday rejected bids by Republicans to raise the amount but approved an amendment offered by the Democrats to reduce the level to \$3.1 billion. The Senate Armed Services

Committee allocated \$4.5 billion for SDI in its 1988 defence bill, on which the full Senate was expected to begin debate this week.

When both houses have passed their own defence bills, they will compromise on a budget to send to Mr. Reagan, who has vowed to veto legislation containing arms control limits he opposes.

Both House and Senate versions of the defence bill include measures that would in effect force Mr. Reagan to remain within the traditional interpretation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, which bans sea-based, space-based and mobile land-based anti-ballistic missile systems.

The Reagan administration has put forward a new, or broad, treaty interpretation that would allow "Star Wars" testing forbidden under the traditional interpretation.

The Senate and Mr. Reagan must agree on the measure before it becomes law, and unanimous approval is far from certain. But the vote highlighted the strong protectionist sentiment brewing in Congress.

Monday's other votes reflected the Democrat-led House's ambivalence about the controversial

Weinberger: Soviets could cheat on short-range missiles

OSLO (R) — The Soviet Union could easily cheat on a treaty to reduce short-range nuclear missiles facing Western Europe despite strict inspection procedures, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said.

"That is not to say that you should not sign an agreement," he said. "It is to say that you should have a healthy degree of scepticism about total and complete compliance."

Mr. Weinberger spoke with reporters en route to a NATO Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) meeting at Stavanger, Norway, this week, which will focus on U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms negotiations.

He said the United States favoured global elimination of medium-range (INF) Soviet SS-20 and U.S. Pershing-2 and ground-launched cruise missiles but had made no decision on a Soviet proposal to cut short-range missiles (SRINF) in the European theatre.

"With a short-range missile it is very hard to verify anything," Mr. Weinberger told reporters in an interview on his aircraft between Washington and Oslo.

"You can put them in taxicabs, or farm trucks, or whatever and move them around. They don't require the infrastructure and it is very much more difficult to verify."

"They (the Soviet Union) can produce a zero result for an in-

spection in every way ... in a country that large with a closed kind of society, they can build and store things that we can't see."

Mr. Weinberger will fly to Stavanger for an NPG meeting on Thursday and Friday at which Atlantic alliance defence ministers will take up the arms issue and what it means for Western security.

With some doubts, NATO has endorsed U.S. moves toward an INF agreement with the Soviet Union that would eliminate from Europe "deep strike" missiles with a range of 600 to 3,000 miles (1,000 kilometres).

The Western allies are agonising over how to respond to Moscow's offer to abolish short-range missiles — those with a range of 300 to 600 miles (500 to 1,000 kilometres) — in Europe.

NATO says it has few weapons in this range and many allies believe it is too good an offer to refuse.

Mr. Weinberger stressed that he was not against an SRINF agreement, but he said any steps toward eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles in Europe would cost NATO money because of massive conventional forces on the Soviet side.

"You have a strong desire in getting a NATO consensus and not a reluctant consensus," Mr. Weinberger said, while promising not to pressure the Europeans with U.S. ideas at Stavanger.

No figures were given but the election is estimated to have been contested by more than 2,000 candidates.

Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer said he reported to the cabinet that three quarters of the 200 places in the house of representatives were likely to go to the administration.

"A maximum of 50 opposition candidates will win in the congress," he said, adding this would be fewer opposition members than the 64 in Marcos's diecioche legislature.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for his alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

President Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mr. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for